



Open Space Committee

Date: Thursday, June 24, 2021.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Conducted by Zoom remote participation

Meeting Minutes

Present: Ann LeRoyer, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Emily Nink, Kelly Lynema, David White, Emily Sullivan,

Absent: Wendy Richter, Brian Kelder, Teresa DeBenedictis, Phil Lasker, Zach Vaillette

Guests: Krista Moravec, Lena Porell

1. Open Space and Recreation Plan (2015-2022)

- a. The Committee and Horsley Witten consultants reviewed the OSRP Workshop, which took place on Thursday, June 10. The Committee discussed how the workshop went and the major themes participants articulated. Themes include property maintenance, invasive plant management, opportunities for art in open space, needs for flexible open space, opportunities for teen programming, and opportunities for more community events.
- b. The HW consultants shared feedback from their interviews with key town staff, including Recreation Dept, Planning Dept, Public Works, Council on Aging and Town Manager's office.
- c. The Committee reviewed a draft survey. The survey will be sent to workshop participants as follow-up and will also be shared more broadly with the Arlington community through the Town website, along with a link to the recording of the June 10 workshop introduction and wrap-up sections.
- d. The Committee discussed scheduling Listening Post outreach. Committee members will select parks/open spaces for additional outreach to community members actively using parks/open spaces. While at these spaces, Committee members will ask folks to fill out the survey. The Committee agreed that a variety of parks/open spaces should be used for Listening Posts. Geographic distribution across town is also important, and Environmental Justice communities should be prioritized.
- e. The Committee discussed the type of posters and materials that should be printed for engagement efforts. Examples of materials include posters, lawn signs, postcards, and business cards. All materials can have a QR code on it to direct folks to the survey.
- f. The Committee discussed how materials should be translated into languages other than English. The Committee noted that other planning and survey efforts, including the Envision Arlington Annual Survey and Connect Arlington planning process incorporated translation, and that the OSRP update process could use similar translation strategies.

2. Updates: CPA/CDBG projects

- a. The Committee reviewed the open space and recreation projects endorsed by the CPA Committee to Town Meeting for FY2022 grant awarding. These

projects include: renovating the Spy Pond North Beach Ramp with porous pavement material, renovating Spy Pond Park Playground, developing a Town-wide Public Land Management Plan, develop a Minuteman Bikeway plan, renovating Hurd Field, and replacing the Robbins Farm Park slides.

- b. The Res Phase 2 project has contracted SumCo to complete the perimeter, beach, and playground work. The project is ongoing and will continue through the end of the calendar year.
- c. The Wellington Park project has contracted Cassidy Landscaping to conduct the work. Construction will begin early July.

3. Other News and Reports

- a. Mugar/Thorndike Place: The next hearing for the Thorndike Place comprehensive permit is scheduled for 6/29/2021.
- b. Mirak/1165R Mass Ave: The next hearing for the 1165R Mass Ave comprehensive permit is scheduled for 7/19/2021.
- c. We did not have a quorum so could not vote on the May 27 minutes. The committee decided to continue to meet remotely via Zoom until further notice.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 PM.

2021 Meeting Dates (usually 4th Thursday of the month but note exceptions): July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, November 11, December 9 (due to holidays)

Submitted by
Emily Sullivan